



Saguaro National Park News Release

14-60

For Immediate Release August 5, 2014

Contact: Fire Information Hotline at (520) 733-5150

DEER HEAD FIRE ACTIVITY INCREASES

Tucson, AZ - Deer Head Fire activity increased yesterday. This was anticipated with the onset of another lull in monsoon moisture. The south and east portions of the fire showed the most fire activity causing firefighters to work along the Heartbreak Ridge Trail, and east off the trail, to establish buffers intended to confine westward progression of the fire in coming days.

The fire continues to burn in wilderness, where it is functioning in its natural role, helping reduce fuel loads and maintain wildlife habitat. Firefighters utilize rocky outcroppings, trails, and natural fuel breaks to limit the fire's spread within an area where it can be managed safely.

Actions today will focus on continuing to improve fire lines along Heartbreak Ridge Trail and an easterly line down a ridge to confine the fires progression from moving westward. They may conduct additional burnout operations during the week to strengthen fire lines as needed. Firefighters use Minimum Impact Suppression (MIST) Tactics, a "light hand on the land" approach to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources while minimizing impacts to park resources.

Adequate resources to manage this fire are in place, including two teams totaling more than 30 interagency wildland fire fighters. A helicopter remains assigned to support the operation logistically, as well as with direct application of water drops if needed.

Smoke again will be visible from Interstate 10 between the Mescal interchange and Benson today. The smoke plume will drift eastward with prevailing southwest winds.

The Tanque Verde Trail and Juniper Basin Campground will remain closed until further notice. A decision to reopen both will occur after the Jackalope Fire is declared controlled. All other Rincon Mountain District backcountry closures will remain in effect for the duration of the Deer Head Fire to ensure public safety.

For additional fire information visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or: <http://Facebook.com/SaguaroNationalPark> or call the Fire Information Hotline at (520) 733-5150.